

JD HARDIE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY HUB

HEDLAND'S HUB FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The JD Hardie Youth and Community Hub is Hedland's primary community centre, supporting children and young people up to 19 years old.

It has undergone substantial expansion over recent years as the Town of Port Hedland continues to invest in facilities that help address antisocial behaviour and community safety by engaging youth in learning and recreation activities.

Every week as many as 300 youth are involved in programs at the JD Hardie Youth and Community Hub, mostly from indigenous backgrounds. Meanwhile, around 750 families are involved in child-focused activities every week. Even more make use of the outdoor facilities that are now available to the community through recent investments.

The Town of Port Hedland is seeking to complete a staged masterplan of the valued community asset with Stage 3 of the redevelopment, focused on outdoor activity and recreation, planned for construction in 2024.

RECENT INVESTMENT

In 2019 the Town of Port Hedland committed to investing in the JD Hardie Youth and Community Hub, driven by identified needs in the community.

Community analysis undertaken in 2019 found that people living in Hedland placed high value on the centre and the programs it offered. However, there was clear desire for more youth programs to be offered.

The community told us there were few other venues in Hedland that offered the same type of youth engagement activity – this was demonstrated by indoor play spaces regularly being booked out.

External activity spaces, shade and seating were specific elements requested by the community.

The needs analysis concluded that an expansion of the JD Hardie Youth and Community Hub would support ongoing community engagement and help keep up with community demand for youth facilities as the population continued to increase.

The approved masterplan included:

Stage 1 – roof replacement, air conditioning renewal, internal layout modifications and refurbishments (completed 2021)

Stage 2 – construction of shaded outdoor basketball courts and landscaping (completed 2022)

The Town of Port Hedland has invested more than \$14 million onto the first two stages. The State Government has contributed \$750,000 through the Community Sporting and Recreational Facilities Fund for Stage 2.



STAGE 3 REDEVELOPMENT

The Stage 3 project continues development of the outdoor area, adjacent to the shaded outdoor basketball courts.

The project includes development of a pump BMX track, skills track, parkour course for 12-17 year olds (with shade), turf area for passive recreation, bike racks, repair station, tree planting and construction of shade structures and fencing.

The development ties into the wider investment into South Hedland playspace, with future planned activity areas and the South Hedland High School in close proximity.



HEDLAND DEMOGRAPHICS AND EXPECTED USAGE

In 2022, slightly less than a quarter of Hedland's population was aged 5-19 – equating to about 3,500 young people. In the next ten years that number is projected to grow by a further 800 youth.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, children participating in active recreational facilities referred to as “wheeled sports” has continued to increase – more than 64 per cent of children take part in these activities.

Meanwhile, the addition of parkour-style amenity has developed as a unique tool to engage young people in healthy leisure activities. We are seeing interest in this physical activity continue to grow in Hedland.

Hedland is proud to be home to one of the world's largest shaded skateparks, ensuring young people can take part in one of their favourite past-times in the harsh Pilbara climate.

The addition of further outdoor recreation facilities, that are made to withstand the Pilbara climate with shade constructed as part of the design, and that are well-lit to ensure safety, will be a valued asset to the Hedland community and well utilised.



ALIGNMENT WITH THE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

The Town's Strategy Community Plan 2022-32 outlines key outcomes specific to the “community” theme, including:

- A hardy, healthy and safe people – seen through improved levels of health, safety and wellbeing in the community.
- An inclusive and involved community – seen through broader community engagement and representative participation in decision-making processes.
- A unique, vibrant and diverse community lifestyle.
- Well utilised and valued community facilities and services.

BUDGET AND TIMING

The Town of Port Hedland has allocated \$4 million to the Stage 3 project in its Long-Term Financial Plan. Because of the speciality materials required for this project, and the regional loading associated with construction in Hedland, the project total is expected to be beyond the Town's \$4 million allocation.

Concept plans for the Stage 3 have been developed and will support quantity survey estimates for the project total.

